

Serial No. 09/117,799

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6. (NEW) A transmission system according to claim 1, wherein the line termination is provided at a private branch exchange, and the private branch exchange is provided between the TDM network and the ATM network.

REMARKS

In accordance with the foregoing, claim 1 has been amended and claim 6 has been added. These claim changes compliment the arguments submitted in the March 19, 2003 Response. Simultaneous consideration of both documents is requested.

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Date: March 20, 2003

By: Mark J. Henry

Mark J. Henry  
Registration No. 36,162

700 Eleventh Street, NW, Suite 500  
Washington, D.C. 20001  
(202) 434-1500

CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted via facsimile to: The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, D.C. 20231

on March 20, 2003

STAAS & HALSEY

By: Mark J. Henry

Date: 3-20-03

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**VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please AMEND the following claim.

1. (THRIC AMENDED) A transmission system for transmitting digital signals between a TDM network connected via an exchange termination and [a] TDM-based terminal equipment connected via a line termination, comprising:

an ATM network having user interfaces;

connection units, provided respectively at the exchange termination and the line termination to respectively connect each of the exchange termination and the line termination to one of the user interfaces of the ATM network;

conversion units provided respectively at the exchange termination and the line termination, to convert time-division multiplex data into ATM cells, or ATM cells into time-division multiplex data; and

an allocation unit to allocate a virtual ATM channel to each time-division multiplex channel.

Please ADD new claim 6.

6. (NEW) A transmission system according to claim 1, wherein the line termination is provided at a private branch exchange, and the private branch exchange is provided between the TDM network and the ATM network.